(b) Kolleru Lake has been selected for conservation under the wetland scheme. An action plan involving an amount of Rs. 7.50 lakhs was sanctioned in 1987-88 for weed removal, acquisition of motor boats for patrolling and setting up of watch towers. Besides, an amount of Rs. 2.25 lakhs was sanctioned during 1986-87 and 1987-88 for the development of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

World Bank

807. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has recommended Dollar 3.8 billion aid to India as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 15th June, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the aid; and

(c) which are the projects to be financed by this aid amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The total aid pledges indicated at the Consortium Meeting held in Paris on June 20-21, 1988 were of the order of US $ 6.3 billion. Of this, US $3.9 billion is likely to be on concessional terms as compared with US $ 3.8 billion recommended by the World Bank.

(b) and (c) The detail such as terms and conditions of such assistance and project to be financed are known as and when bilateral and multilateral aid negotiations are completed/finalized.

Denudation of Forests

808. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a denudation of forests on a very large scale throughout the country at present;

(b) if so, the details of the forests which have been denuded during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether steps are being taken to control the denudation of forests in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Studies carried out by the National Remote sensing Agency, through satellite imagery have shown that the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares. However, no study has been conducted to assess denudation of forests during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The major initiatives taken to conserve forests are listed below:—

1. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

(2) A centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the States to develop infrastructure for enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.

3. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

4. Wood is being substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building constructions.

(5) Import policy for forest products has been liberalised.

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

8. Giudelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

(i) to avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricated to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) to consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which requires protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Trade Balance

809. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest figures relating to the country's balance of trade position; and

(b) if the same is not favourably what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to improve the balance of trade position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) According to the provisional trade statistics, India's balance of trade showed a deficit of Rs. 1335 crores during the first two months of the current financial year i.e. April—May, 1988.

(b) The reason for the trade deficit was due to high level of imports, which are essential for urgent needs of domestic consumption, export production and technological upgradation. The Government have already taken a series of initiatives to boost exports further. Efforts are also being made to effect efficient import substitution particularly in the area of bulk imports.

दिल्ली में जाली अनुसूचित जाति प्रमाण-पत्रों की बिक्री

810. **श्री शरद यादव** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि दिल्ली में जाली अनुसूचित जाति प्रमाण-पत्र बेचे जा रहे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस अवैध व्यापार को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार अब तक बेचे जा चुके जाली प्रमाणपत्रों के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिये क्या प्रयास कर रही है और उनके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) से (ग) दिल्ली प्रशासन के अनुसार, अनुसूचित जाति के जाली प्रमाण-पत्र का एक मामला ध्यान में आया है । यह पता चलने पर कि अनुसूचित जाति के प्रमाण पत्रों के कुछ जाली फार्म उपायुक्त कार्यालय से गुम हैं, प्रमाण-पत्रों को जारी करने से संबंधित दो व्यक्तियों को निलम्बित कर दिया गया है । दो कार्यकर्ताओं को पुलिस हिरासत में लिया गया और उसके बाद निलम्बित कर दिया गया । मामला दिल्ली पुलिस को भेज दिया गया है । प्रशासन ने राष्ट्रीय दैनिक समाचार-पत्रों में गुम अनुसूचित जाति के प्रमाण-पत्रों के खाली फार्मों के समस्त नम्बर देते हुए नोटिस दिया है ।